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PAGE Announces 2016 Award Recipients

Gifted Education Students to be Recognized for Their Promise and Community Service

Harrisburg, PA: The Pennsylvania Association for Gifted Education (PAGE) is proud to announce the 2016 Distinguished Student Award recipients to be honored at the Second Annual PAGE Fall Conference on Friday, November 18, 2016:

2016 Distinguished Student Grades 7-9 – Alexa Battah, Conestoga Valley Middle School

Alexa Battah is a 7th grader, recognized for her tireless efforts in community service since the age of 6! As a first grader, she convinced her mom to start a walk for 2 breast cancer patients and raise funds for the American Cancer Society. Two years later, the walks continued and grew, leading to the formation of Alexa's Heavenly Helping Angels Foundation to help other families in need. Her Foundation has helped families with Christmas meals, gifts, gas and grocery cards as patients are going through treatments. She has donated her own hair 3 times to help cancer patients. In addition, Ms. Battah has contributed to her school community in a variety of roles each year. Her compassion, responsibility, and hard work have helped many people.

2016 Distinguished Student Grades 10-12 – Erica Wang, Hershey High School

Born in Hershey, PA, Erica Wang has been involved with gifted education since 1st grade. Erica spearheaded the Hershey High School Key Club's first Walk for Clean Water, which raised \$18K for Thirst Project, a nonprofit organization. As an intern at the Penn State College of Medicine Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, she used R programming language to analyze the genetics of mice exposed to bladder cancer carcinogen. Erica has received numerous academic awards, most recently, the 2016 American Association for the Advancement of Science Shoffsatall Award for PJAS Excellence, the University of Rochester Bausch + Lomb Honorary Science Award and the RIT Computing Medal Award. In addition, she placed 3rd in the 2016 USA Memory Championship and as captain, led the Hershey Memory Team to winning national team champions in 2015 and 2016. She is an accomplished musician, playing both violin and piano, a varsity cross-country runner, and enjoys eating at new restaurants with her friends.

2016 Honorable Mention Grades 10-12 -- Gabriel Ramos, North Pocono High School

A 2014 recipient of the PAGE Distinguished Student Award, Gabriel deserves an Honorable Mention for his work with Senator Smucker's office in promoting the understanding of gifted education issues in the Commonwealth, which led to the Resolution to designate November 18th as Gifted Education Day in PA.

About PAGE: A nonprofit advocacy organization dedicated to helping gifted learners, parents and educators. An affiliate of the [National Association for Gifted Children \(NAGC\)](#), since 1951, PAGE has assisted countless parents, teachers and administrators in helping Pennsylvania's gifted learners reach their full potential. We do this through our free Helpline, [our network of local affiliates](#), [annual conferences](#), and effective advocacy. Working with state legislators and members of the state [Department of Education](#), PAGE fostered the passage of Pennsylvania's [Chapter 16](#), Special Education for the Gifted, one of the strongest for gifted education in the nation.